

Amendment  
Serial No. 10/562,276

GB030102US1

**REMARKS**

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 16-29 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1-14 had been withdrawn from consideration based on the papers submitted on February 12, 2009 in response to the Restriction Requirement issued on November 12, 2008.

Claims 16 and 27 are independent claims.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

Claims 16-29 have been amended.

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, dated November 18, 2009, applicant submits a full set of claims, as previously submitted in Applicant's prior response, including further amendments to the claims to correct the deficiencies noted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment – claim 25 includes a reference to the letter A without underlining.

Pursuant to the instructions provided in Section 2 "TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE," in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, applicant submits, herein, only that section of the previously filed response (i.e., the Claims section) found to be in a form not in compliance with the Rules and Practices of the US Patent Office.

In order to advance the prosecution of the matter, as a response to the initial Office Action was filed on July 2008, applicant respectfully requests that any additional errors in form that do not alter the substantive nature of the arguments presented in the Office Action Response filed in July 2008 be transmitted telephonically to the applicant's representative so that such errors may be quickly resolved or pursuant to MPEP 714.03 be entered into the record to avoid continued delay of the prosecution of this matter any further.

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MPEP 714.03 affords the Examiner the discretion, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.135 (c), to enter into the record a bona fide attempt to advance the application that includes minor errors in form.

"[a]n Examiner may treat an amendment not fully responsive to a non-final Office Action by: (A) accepting the amendment as an adequate reply to the non-final Office action to avoid abandonment ... (B) notifying the applicant that the reply must be completed... (C) setting a new time period for applicant to complete the reply ...

The treatment to be given to the amendment depends upon:

(A) whether the amendment is bona fide; (B) whether there is sufficient time for applicant's reply ... (C) the nature of the deficiency.

Where an amendment substantially responds to the rejections, objections or requirements in a non-final Office action (and is bona fide attempt to advance the application to final action) but contains a minor deficiency (e.g., fails to treat every rejection, objection or requirement), the examiner may simply act on the amendment and issue a new (non-final or final) Office action. The new Office action may simply reiterate the rejection, objection or requirement not addressed by the amendment (or otherwise indicate that such rejection, objection or requirement is no longer applicable).

This course of action would not be appropriate in instances in which an amendment contains a serious deficiency (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or does not appear to have been filed in reply to the non-final Office action)..."

Applicant's representative believes that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was issued for what amounts to a typographical error in the

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amendment of claim 25, which depends from claim 16, and could have been accepted and entered into the record as such error was both minor in nature and does not interfere with or alter the evaluation of the scope of the claims on the merits.

However, if the Examiner believes that such minor errors in form cannot be entered into the record, then the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below to resolve such procedure issues.

For the amendments made to the claims, as presented herein, and for the arguments provided in applicant's response to the currently outstanding Office Action, applicant submits that all claims are in an allowable form and that the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael E. Belk, Reg. no. 33357

Date: November 22, 2009

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Carl A. Giordano  
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/Carl A. Giordano/  
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